

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF  
CLAY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

An organizational and regular session of the Clay Community Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Board Room of the Central Administrative Office, 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN, 47834, on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Ryan Keller, Michael Shaw, Lynn Romas, Andrea Baysinger, Tom Reberger, Amy Burke Adams, and Cheryl Schopmeyer were present.

**SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION**

**A. Nomination and Election of Officers**

Mr. Romas nominated Tom Reberger for board president. With no other nominations, Mr. Reberger was declared president by acclamation.

Mrs. Adams nominated Lynn Romas for board vice president. With no other nominations, Mr. Romas was declared vice president by acclamation.

Dr. Shaw nominated Andrea Baysinger for board secretary. With no other nominations, Mrs. Baysinger was declared secretary by acclamation.

Mrs. Adams nominated Cheryl Schopmeyer for board assistant secretary. With no other nominations, Mrs. Schopmeyer was declared assistant secretary by acclamation.

**B. Appointment of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer**

Mr. Keller moved to approve the appointment of John Szabo as treasurer and Sheri Yocom as deputy treasurer. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**C. Approval of Employee Bonds**

Mrs. Baysinger moved to accept the recommendation to bond the following employees and positions:

John Szabo, Corporation	\$300,000
Sheri Yocom, Corporation	\$300,000
Clay City Jr/Sr High School Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$100,000
Clay City Jr/Sr High School Building Principal	\$100,000
Clay City Jr/Sr High School Athletic Director	\$20,000
Northview High School Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$220,000
Northview High School Building Principal	\$220,000
Northview High School Athletic Directors	\$20,000
North Clay Middle School Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$65,000
North Clay Middle School Building Principal	\$65,000
North Clay Middle School Athletic Directors	\$20,000
Clay City Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Clay City Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000
East Side Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
East Side Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000

Forest Park Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Forest Park Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000
Jackson Township Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Jackson Township Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000
Meridian Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Meridian Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000
Staunton Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Staunton Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000
Van Buren Elementary Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Van Buren Elementary Building Principal	\$20,000
Cumberland Academy Extra-Curricular Treasurer	\$20,000
Cumberland Academy Building Principal	\$20,000
All other employees (Corporation Blanket Bond)	\$50,000

Dr. Shaw seconded. The Board voted 7-0 in favor of approval.

**D. Designation of Newspapers for Legal Advertisements**

Mrs. Schopmeyer moved to accept the recommendation that Clay Community Schools designate *The Brazil Times* and *The Parke County Sentinel* as the official newspapers for legal advertisements. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**E. Appointment of Members to Bid Opening Committee**

It was recommended that the following individuals be appointed to the bid opening committee:

Mr. Jeffery Fritz	Superintendent
Mr. John Szabo	Director of Business Affairs
Mr. Aron Hammond	Director of Extended Services

Other staff members can be asked to serve on the committee if the bid being considered warrants their service.

Mr. Keller moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**F. Establishment of Meeting Times and Dates**

Mr. Romas moved to accept the recommendation to continue to hold regular session school board meetings on the second Thursday of the month in the board room of the Central Administrative Office at 1013 S. Forest Avenue, Brazil, IN, and to keep the start time of meetings at 7:00 p.m. It was added that the Board does have the latitude to change times and move the location, if so desired. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**G. Appointment of Corporation Attorneys**

It was recommended to keep Jeff Boyll as the corporation's local attorney, not on a retainer, and on an as-needed basis. It was noted that free legal advice was available through the Indiana School Boards Association. Additional recommendations were to use Bose, McKinney, & Evans for major legal issues, Barnes & Thornburg for financial matters, and Lewis & Kappes for negotiations.

Dr. Shaw moved to accept the recommendations for corporation attorneys. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **H. Compensation**

It was recommended to reapprove Board Policy 0144.1 – Compensation, including per diem amounts of \$112 per regular session board meeting and \$62 per special session board meeting. It was noted if more than one meeting was held on the same day, compensation will only be provided for one meeting.

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Board President Tom Reberger led those in attendance in the pledge, and Superintendent Fritz offered the prayer.

### **II. Comments from Patrons**

None

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Claims**

#### **B. Board Meetings**

Regular Session Minutes for December 8, 2022

#### **C. Field Trips**

Northview High School DECA to attend leadership workshops in Indianapolis, Indiana, requiring an overnight stay, March 5-7, 2023.

#### **D. Personnel**

##### **A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

##### **1. Certified**

a. FMLA	ESE	Caitlyn Long
b. FMLA	JTE	Lillian Yocom
c. FMLA	CA/GOALS	Brion Blanc
d. Not Eligible- New Hire	ESE	Allison Prindiville

##### **2. Non-Certified**

a. FMLA	NHS	Rod Howald
b. FMLA	JTE	Rodney Frakes
c. Employee Not Qualifying for Leave	ESE	Brenda Ziels

##### **B. RETIREMENTS**

##### **1. Certified**

None

##### **2. Non-Certified**

None

##### **3. Place on Retirement Index**

None

C. RESIGNATIONS

- |                                 |          |                    |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1. Certified                    |          |                    |
| a. SPED-SLP (eff. 1/3/23)       | CCHS/CCE | Hannah Thompson    |
| 2. Non-Certified                |          |                    |
| a. Food Services (eff. 12/2/22) | NCMS     | Leslie Douglas     |
| b. Food Services (eff. 1/3/23)  | ESE      | Kayla Schutt Smith |
| c. IA (eff. 12/22/22)           | VBE      | Morgan Wood        |
| 3. ECA Resignations             | None     |                    |
| 4. ECA Lay Coaches              | None     |                    |

D. TRANSFERS

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| 1. Certified     | None |
| 2. Non-Certified | None |

E. EMPLOYMENT

- |  |         |                   |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| 1. Certified                               |         |                   |
| a. Elem. SPED Teacher (eff. 1/3/23)        | FPE/SES | Maranda Spraggins |
| b. Secondary English Teacher (eff. 1/3/23) | NHS     | Chris Hawk        |
| 2. Non-Certified                           |         |                   |
| a. Food Services<br>(6 hr. 7:00am-1:30pm)  | VBE     | Abigail Crawford  |
| b. IA 1:1 (29 hr)                          | MES     | Rhiannon Bussing  |
| c. IA (29 hr)                              | MES     | Lisa Watler       |
| d. Food Services<br>(6hr. 7:00am-1:30pm)   | ESE     | Anna Deal         |
| e. IA (29 hr)                              | SES     | Brailyn Medearis  |
| f. Bus Driver (full-time)                  | Trans   | Megan Palm        |
| g. Bus Driver (full-time)                  | Trans   | Rhodonna New      |
| h. Food Services (5hr)                     | NCMS    | Chanise England   |
| i. IA 1:1 (29 hr)                          | MES     | Deborah Kemper    |
| 3. Other                                   | None    |                   |

F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- |  |      |                      |
|--|------|----------------------|
| 1. Extra-Curricular Certified                |      |                      |
| a. JV & Varsity Assist. Baseball Coach (33%) | NHS  | Luke Lancaster       |
| 2. Extra-Curricular Non-Certified            | None |                      |
| 3. Extra-Curricular Lay Coach                |      |                      |
| a. Boys Varsity Golf Coach (50%)             | NHS  | Sam Grimes           |
| b. Boys Varsity Golf Coach (50%)             | NHS  | Nick McCollum        |
| c. Varsity Softball Coach                    | NHS  | Kathy Vossmer        |
| d. Varsity Assist. Softball Coach            | NHS  | Ashley Hagan(Hughes) |
| e. JV Softball Coach                         | NHS  | Steve Clarke         |
| f. JV & Varsity Asst. Baseball Coach (33%)   | NHS  | Corey Clark          |
| g. JV & Varsity Asst. Baseball Coach (33%)   | NHS  | Mike Walters         |
| h. pulled                                    |      |                      |
| 4. Supplemental                              |      |                      |
| a. Assistant Softball Coach (\$600.00 Max)   | NHS  | Steve Clark          |

- b. Assistant Softball Coach(\$600.00 Max) NHS
- c. Assistant Softball Coach (\$600.00 Max) NHS

Olivia Notter  
Makenzie Barger

G. CHANGES

- 1. Certified None
- 2. Non-Certified None
- 3. ECA-Lay Coaches None

H. VOLUNTEERS

1. CLASSROOM

- a. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Elissa Booe
- b. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Alyssa Cano
- c. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Terrance Cano
- d. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Eric Clayton
- e. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Emily Corbin
- f. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Shelby Felling
- g. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Kelsie Gerber
- h. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Christa Hofmann
- i. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Audrie Koehler-Blair
- j. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Angela Long
- k. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Gregory Morris
- l. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Sarah Reeves
- m. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Natasha Stoner
- n. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE John Zurcher
- o. Classroom (Volunteer) CCE Lisa Zurcher
- p. Classroom (Volunteer) ESE James Tague
- q. Classroom (Volunteer) ESE Jamie Weaver
- r. Classroom (Volunteer) JTE Shanna Howard
- s. Classroom (Volunteer) JTE Brittany Nees
- t. Classroom (Volunteer) JTE Natali Sullivan
- u. Classroom (Volunteer) JTE Elizabeth Terril
- v. Classroom (Volunteer) JTE Sara Thomas
- w. Classroom (Volunteer) JTE Emilee Vanatti
- x. Classroom (Volunteer) ME Kendi Sanabria
- y. Classroom (Volunteer) ME Jonathan Bradford
- z. Classroom (Volunteer) SE Mavery Brush
- aa. Classroom (Volunteer) SE Kristen Moore
- bb. Classroom (Volunteer) SE Cassandra Powell
- cc. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Shelbi Cooksey
- dd. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Autumn Gummere
- ee. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Angelica Harper
- ff. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Eric Loughmiller
- gg. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Dakota McMains
- hh. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Jessica Nodley
- ii. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Valerie Smith
- jj. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Alexandra Taylor
- kk. Classroom (Volunteer) VBE Nell Youngling
- ll. Classroom (Volunteer) NHS Elizabeth Collins

mm. Classroom (Volunteer)	NHS	Walter Wacaster
nn. Classroom (Volunteer)	NHS	Kimberlee Bryan
oo. Classroom (Volunteer)	NHS	Timothy Bryan
ii. Classroom (Volunteer)	NHS	Brad Morgan
jj. Classroom (Volunteer)	CCHS	Kent Baumgartner

Personnel Additions (1/12/2023)- Engineer in the Classroom:

- a. Parker Ames
- b. Marc Maurer
- c. Jeremy Johnson
- d. Charles Ogborn
- e. Sam Kimmel
- f. Phillip Williams

2. BAND

a. Band (Volunteer)	NCMS	K. Cee Smith
b. Band (Volunteer)	NHS	Samantha McClelland

2. ATHLETICS/ECA

a. Assist. Track Coach (Vol)	NHS	Hunter Vincent
b. Assist. Track Coach (Vol)	NHS	Sara Stallcop
c. Assist. Baseball Coach (Vol)	NHS	Randy Hill
d. Assist. Baseball Coach (Vol)	NHS	Alex Reinoehl

I. TERMINATIONS None

J. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY

a. IA (3-days)	MES	Britany Phillipo
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K. NON-RENEWAL None

Mr. Keller moved to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. CCS School Board Policy Revisions- Second Reading**

Information regarding several proposed policy revisions recommended by Neola was presented at the December 8 regular session, and no changes were proposed during the first reading.

0142.2 – Oath

1521/3121/4121 – Personal Background Checks, References, and Mandatory Reporting of Convictions and Substantiated Child Abuse

2431 – Interscholastic Athletics

2432 – Grievance Procedure for Violation of State Law Limiting Participation of Transgender Girls in Athletics

2464 – Programs for High Ability Students

3120.02 – Adjunct Teachers

3120.11 – Public Hearing Before Commencement of Collective Bargaining and Public Meeting Before Ratification of Tentative Agreement

3220.02 – Supplemental Payments for Teachers

5420 – Reporting Student Progress

5610 – Suspension and Expulsion of Students  
6250 – Required ADM Counts for the Purpose of State Funding and Verification  
Residency for Membership  
6550 – Travel Payment and Reimbursement  
8120 – Volunteers  
8121 – Personal Background Check – Contracted Services  
8210 – School Calendar  
8220 – School Day  
8400 – School Safety  
8510 – Wellness  
8600 – Transportation

Mr. Romas moved to approve the recommendation. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**V. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Fritz noted the following:

- Welcome to new employees Maranda Spraggins, Chris Hawk, Abigail Crawford, Rhiannon Bussing, Lisa Watler, Anna Deal, Brailyn Medearis, Megan Palm, Rhodonna New, Chanise England, and Deborah Kemper.
- Hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas, and he is looking forward to a productive second semester.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Resolution for Interest Deposits**

Mrs. Schopmeyer moved to approve the resolution for interest deposits. Dr. Shaw seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**B. Resolution to Transfer Appropriations**

Mrs. Adams moved to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution to transfer appropriations. Mrs. Baysinger seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**C. 2023 Transfer of Funds Certificate**

Mr. Romas moved to approve the 2023 transfer of funds certificate. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**D. Resolution to Prepay Claims**

Mr. Keller moved to approve the resolution to prepay claims. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**E. Resolution to Transfer from One Fund to Another**

Mrs. Adams moved to approve the resolution to transfer from one fund to another. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**F. Resolution to Execute Monthly Transfer of Basic Grant Funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund**

As a result of HEA 1009, the monthly basic tuition grant must be fully deposited in the Education Fund. Some of those funds are needed to pay for expenditures that are now paid from the Operations Fund. These transfers are necessary to fund those expenditures and are consistent with guidance provided by the State Board of Accounts and the DLGF.

Mr. Keller moved to accept the recommendation to approve the resolution to execute monthly transfer of basic grant funds from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**G. Police Officer Job Description – First Reading**

The police officer job description was included in the board packet. This was a first reading, so no vote was necessary.

**H. Recommendation to Approve Request to Pilot New Tobacco Education Group (TEG) Program and Study Additional Vaping Education Options**

Kathy Knust provided information to the board pertaining to a request to pilot a new Tobacco Education Group (TEG) program and study additional vaping education options. Andrea Dawes, Therapeutic Counselor for Cumberland Academy, secondary principals, and Mrs. Knust presented additional information to the board.

Mrs. Knust reminded the board that vape detectors were installed in the secondary schools during the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year. This was done in an effort to help address the increase in the number of students using vape devices in schools. The increase in the number of students being caught using vape devices led to an increase in the number of students that were taking part in the after-school tobacco education program (TEG), which is part of the CCS disciplinary policy. The large increase of students in the current TEG program led to leaders reaching out for additional staffing for the program. A committee meeting was held, and it became apparent that a need to improve the current TEG program was appropriate.

Northview High School Principal Chris Mauk and Assistant Principal Bryan Strain shared information with the board regarding what they have learned from students when it comes to vaping and the disciplinary actions that are being enforced.

Mrs. Adams questioned the pricing difference between a vape and a pack of cigarettes. Mr. Strain shared that a vape can cost between \$25-\$35 a pen. He shared that some pens are disposable and some have refills that can be bought.

Mr. Romas asked where the parents stand on this issue. Mr. Strain stated the parents that he has spoken with do not know the extent of what is in the vape pens as some vape pens include Delta 8, a form of marijuana.

Mrs. Adams mentioned considering a committee to bring parents on board. Mrs. Knust replied they are currently adding members of the community and creating a committee.



Mrs. Schopmeyer questioned Mr. Strain on the number of students that have repeatedly received referrals. Mr. Strain noted several students that have been caught multiple times. Mr. Romas asked about the success rate of the current Tuesday/Thursday after-school program. Mr. Strain stated there has been some success with the current program; however, the number of vapes that are now in the school has increased. Mrs. Dawes shared information with the board about the current TEG program and the need for change, the dangers of vaping, and the fear of the increase of addiction in students.

Mrs. Knust noted the committee is aware that the current TEG program is not effective and that the program must be restructured. She emphasized they are committed to updating and expanding the K-12 curriculum and programs to include more education for students. She asked the board for support and approval to pilot The American Lung Association INDEPTH program and study additional education options.

Mr. Romas asked how the elementary buildings were being included in this program. Mrs. Knust stated the school nurses are currently providing educational lessons to the elementary and seventh-grade students using the Catch My Breath program through The Hamilton Center. Mrs. Baysinger asked if each building contained Narcan, the medication used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose; the administration confirmed each building does have the medication easily available and assessable. Mrs. Schopmeyer asked if there were any efforts being made to address these issues with the state legislatures. Mrs. Knust replied they have been in contact and would like to invite representatives to future meetings.

Mr. Keller asked if the current TEG program only allowed students to attend once and questioned if this was the best practice when it comes to addiction treatment. He stated students should be given the option to go through the program multiple times if necessary. Mrs. Dawes replied when this program was put into place, it was used as an educational program, not a cessation program. An addiction program, to which Mr. Keller was referring, is something they hope to offer students in the future; however, currently, they are seeking educational programs to pilot. Mr. Keller also asked if they were currently requesting funding for this pilot program. The administration stated there was not a request for funding at this time, but it will be brought back to the Board, if needed.

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the request to pilot The American Lung Association INDEPTH Program and to study additional education options. Mrs. Schopmeyer seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**I. Request to Bid Security Cameras & Servers**

Mr. Keller moved to approve the request to bid to upgrade the current Avigilon Camera System. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**J. Request to Apply for the Digital Learning Parent & Family Support Grant**

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the request to apply for the Digital Learning Parent & Family Support Grant. Mr. Keller seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**K. Request to Purchase Football Lineman Sled for Northview High School**

Dr. Shaw moved to approve the purchase of a football lineman sled for NHS. Mr. Romas seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. ECA money will be utilized to purchase this item.

**L. FPE Kids Hope Chapter**

Mrs. Baysinger moved to approve the request for Forest Park Elementary to participate in a Kids Hope Chapter. Mrs. Adams seconded, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**VII. Board Member Comments**

**Ryan Keller** welcomed the new hires and appreciated the presentations. Thanks were extended to administrators and staff for continuing to make CCS a phenomenal place, and he is grateful for the continued effort for kickstarting new programs in the schools.

**Michael Shaw** seconded Mr. Keller.

**Lynn Romas** appreciated the information provided by the administration on the vaping situation.

**Amy Burke Adams** welcomed the new hires and Mrs. Schopmeyer. Thanks were extended to administrators for the presentation and to the staff for a great first semester.

**Cheryl Schopmeyer** extended thanks to the community for supporting her bid for school board. She hopes to learn as much as possible in the shortest amount of time and hopes to meet patrons and staff to help her make the right decisions.

**Tom Reberger** recognized the CCS Maintenance Department during the below-freezing weather for their hard work prepping and maintaining the buildings to ensure there were no issues.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items**

Mrs. Adams requested a presentation by Dianna Knox, the corporation's Technology Instructional Specialist. She would like Mrs. Knox to share what she does for the corporation and her impact on the teachers, students, and community members.

**IX. Adjournment**

Having exhausted all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

The meeting was audio recorded, and copies may be requested by contacting the Central Administration Office.